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Running for County & Multi-County District Office

County Commissioner
Director, Garrison Diversion Conservancy
Director, Southwest Water Authority
Supervisor, Soil Conservation District

☒ **Qualifications and Terms of Office**

County Officers: County officers must be, at the time of election, a qualified elector in the jurisdiction in which the candidate is to serve. County commissioners must be qualified voters residing in the county where the officer is chosen prior to taking office. Some exceptions may apply depending on the form of county government (NDCC § [11-10-04](#)).

The 4-year terms of office for county commissioners begin on the first Monday in December following the election.

Director, Garrison Diversion Conservancy: Directors of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District must be qualified voters residing in the county where the officer is chosen (NDCC § [61-24-03](#)).

The 4-year terms of office for Directors begin on January 1st following the election.

Director, Southwest Water Authority: Directors of the Southwest Water Authority must be qualified voters residing in the county where the officer is chosen (NDCC § [61-24.5-06](#)).

Directors are elected at the June election. The 4-year terms of office begin on the first Monday in July following the date of election.

Supervisor, Soil Conservation District: Supervisors of the Soil Conservation District must be qualified voters residing in the district where the officer is chosen (NDCC § [4-22-16](#)).

Supervisors are elected directly at the general election without a primary election.

The 6-year terms of office for Supervisors begin on January 1st following the election.

☒ **Running in the Primary Election**

County and multi-county district offices are all nonpartisan offices. Candidates for these offices must file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination with their county auditor containing the required number of signatures as described below.

County Offices: Candidates may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination containing signatures of qualified voters equal to not less than 2% or more than 5% of the votes cast for the same offices in the last general election that the office appeared on the ballot. However, no more than 300 signatures are required (NDCC § [16.1-11-11](#)).

Director, Southwest Water Authority: Candidates may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination containing signatures of qualified voters equal to not less than 2% of the qualified electors of the county as determined by the number of votes cast in the county for that office at the most recent election at which the office appeared on the ballot (NDCC § [61-24.5-06](#)).

Director, Garrison Conversion Conservancy District: Candidates may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination containing signatures of not less than 50 nor more than 300 qualified voters of the county (NDCC § [61-24-03](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A **Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)** containing the required number of signatures of qualified electors of the district;
2. An **Affidavit of Candidacy (SFN 2703)**;
3. A **Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)**.

Circulating a Petition/Certificate of Nomination

A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed more than 90 days before the date the petition must be filed with the county auditor. Therefore, candidates may not circulate or have a Petition/Certificate of Nomination signed before **January 14, 2012**.

When and Where to File

Candidates may not file earlier than 150 days before or later than 4:00 p.m. on the 60th day before the June 12, 2012 Primary Election.

The filing deadline with the **County Auditor** is **April 13, 2012**. Original filings must be physically received in the county auditor's office by **4:00 p.m.** on the filing deadline day.

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☒ **Running as a Write-In Candidate in the Primary Election**

A write-in candidate for county or multi-county district office at the June 12, 2012, Primary Election is not required to file anything in order for the candidate's write-in votes to be counted (NDCC Ch. [16.1-12](#)).

☒ **Running in the General Election**

The candidates for county office and Garrison Diversion Conservancy Director with the highest number of votes in the June 12, 2012 Primary Election and who total twice the number of available positions for the office will automatically have their names placed on the November 6, 2012 General Election. No person may be deemed nominated as a candidate for any office at any primary election unless the candidate receives a number of votes equal to the number of signatures required on a petition to have a candidate's name for that office placed on the primary ballot (NDCC § [16.1-11-36](#)).

Supervisor, Soil Conservation District: Candidates may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination that contains signatures of not less than 25 nor more than 300 qualified electors of the county (NDCC § [4-22-17](#)).

A Complete Filing Must Include:

1. A **Petition/Certificate of Nomination (SFN 2704)** containing the required number of signatures of qualified electors of the district;
2. An **Affidavit of Candidacy (SFN 2703)**;
3. A **Statement of Interests (SFN 10172)**.

Circulating a Petition/Certificate of Nomination

A Petition/Certificate of Nomination may not be circulated or signed more than 90 days before the date the petition must be filed with the county auditor. Therefore, candidates may not circulate or have a Petition/Certificate of Nomination signed before **June 9, 2012**.

When and Where to File

Candidates may not file earlier than 150 days before nor later than 4:00 p.m. on the 60th day before the November 6, 2012 General Election.

The filing deadline with the **County Auditor** is **September 7, 2012**. Original filings must be physically received in the county auditor's office by **4:00 p.m.** on the filing deadline day.

No person may file a Petition/Certificate of Nomination to place their name on the general election ballot as an independent for a nonpartisan office (NDCC § [16.1-12-02](#) & [16.1-12-09](#)).

☒ **Running as a Write-In Candidate in the General Election**

A write-in candidate for county or multi-county district office at the November 6, 2012 General Election is not required to file a certificate of write-in candidacy (NDCC Ch. [16.1-12](#)).

☒ **Campaign Finance and Disclosure**

Candidates for county and multi-county district offices are **NOT** subject to the registration requirements found in NDCC [16.1-08.1-03.2](#) but **ARE** subject to the campaign finance and disclosure requirements found in NDCC § [16.1-08.1-03.10](#).

☒ **Forms**

The state forms (SFNs) listed above are available from the Secretary of State's and county auditors' offices and may also be accessed from the Secretary of State's web site and Fax-On-Demand service line.

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